



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

APR 15 2002

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APR 18 2002

SURFACE WATER
QUALITY DIVISION

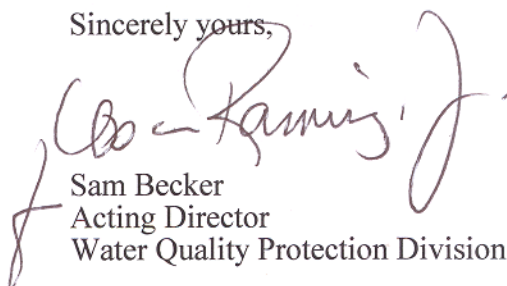
James H. Davis, Ph.D.
Chief, Surface Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Dr. Davis:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received the final document *Total Maximum Daily Load for Metals (Chronic Aluminum) for the East Fork of the Gila River and Taylor Creek*. Based on our review, detailed in the enclosed document, we conclude that the TMDLs listed above meet the requirements found in Section 303 of the Clean Water Act and the implementing regulations at 40 CFR 130.7. The EPA is, therefore, pleased to approve the TMDL loads contained in this document. The EPA also acknowledges that these loadings will be incorporated as updates to the New Mexico Water Quality Management Plan. Please note that while included in the NMED submittal, implementation plans are not required by current regulations and this approval does not address the existence or the adequacy of any implementation plans contained within this submission.

We commend your staff for the considerable effort that went into developing and establishing these TMDLs. If you would like to discuss these approvals, please contact me at (214) 665-7101 or Willie Lane of my staff at (214) 665-8460.

Sincerely yours,


Sam Becker
Acting Director
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosure